WHAT IF™

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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WHAT IF™ THE WORLD KNEW THAT DAREDEVIL® IS BLIND?

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MIGHTY MARVEL'S NEWEST SMASH-HIT MAG--FEATURING THE STORIES YOUR LETTERS DEMANDED!

YOU MIGHT HAVE DEFEATED ME MASKED MAN--IF I HADN'T LEARNED YOUR FATAL WEAKNESS!

BUT NOW I CAN DISRUPT YOUR RADAR-SENSE--IMPAIR YOUR SUPER-HEARING--

--SO THAT THE OWL TRIUMPHS--AND DAREDEVIL DIES!

SO DIZZY--CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE! LOOKS LIKE I'M--FINISHED!

BONUS!

WITHIN THESE ACTION-PACKED PAGES LURKS SPIDER-MAN!

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STAN LEE PRESENTS: A STUNNING SAGA OF AN ALTERNATE REALITY!

DON GLUT WRITER | ALAN KUPPERBERG & JIM MOONEY CO-ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN | KARIN, LETTERER MARY ELLEN, COLORIST | ROY THOMAS CONCEPT & EDITOR

WHAT IF THE WORLD KNEW DAREDEVIL WAS BLIND?

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"WITHIN MINUTES, IT WAS FINISHED! THE FELONS NEVER REALIZED THEY WERE DEFEATED BY A BLIND SUPER-HERO...

THAT'S RIGHT, LIEUTENANT! YOU'LL FIND THE ENTIRE GANG OF CAR THIEVES HERE, ALL GIFT-WRAPPED FOR YOU!

ALTHOUGH I'M SORRY THEIR BOSS WASN'T HERE!

"BUT, EVEN AS THE POLICE ARRIVED, THEIR 'BOSS' WAS WATCHING...

BAH! I WAS BORED WITH STEALING CARS, ANYWAY.

WAREH COS

...ELECTRO, EVIL MONARCH OF ELECTRICITY, AND FORMER FOE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"RETURNING TO HIS HIDEOUT, ELECTRO LEARNED THAT THE ESTEEMED FANTASTIC FOUR WERE EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON, D.C., TO RECEIVE AN AWARD...

I'VE THOUGHT OF A CRIME WORTHY OF MY GREAT POWERS!

WHILE THE F.F. ARE OUT OF TOWN, I'LL BREAK INTO THEIR HEADQUARTERS--STEAL THEIR SCIENTIFIC SECRETS--

--AND SELL THEM TO A HOSTILE NATION FOR A FORTUNE!!

"LATER, MATT MURDOCK, DAREDEVIL, RETURNED TO THE LAW OFFICES OF NELSON AND MURDOCK--WHERE HIS ASSOCIATE FOGGY NELSON AND SECRETARY KAREN PAGE WERE WAITING...

MATT! I WROTE TO AN EYE SPECIALIST IN MY HOME TOWN! I DESCRIBED YOUR FORM OF BLINDNESS--

--AND HE HAS OPERATED ON CASES LIKE YOURS BEFORE! HE THINKS HE CAN CURE YOU.

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN.

"KAREN READ MATT THE LETTER, BUT TO HER CHAGRIN...

IT'S VERY INTERESTING, KAREN! I'LL THINK ABOUT IT A WHILE...

YOU DON'T SOUND VERY PLEASED...

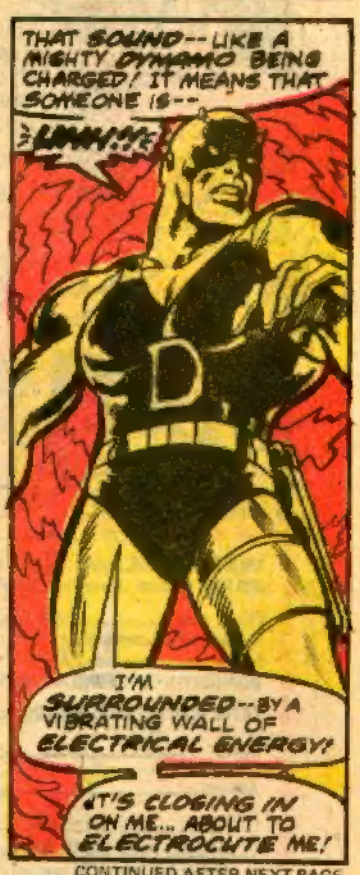
FORGIVE ME, KAREN! IT'S JUST THAT I...EH... DON'T WANT TO BE DISAPPOINTED!

ALAS, KAREN PAGE COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND MATT MURDOCK'S RELUCTANCE TO SUBMIT TO AN OPERATION THAT MIGHT RETURN HIS SIGHT!

BUT, IN TRUTH, THE LAWYER FEARS NOT THE OPERATION'S FAILURE--

--SO MUCH AS ITS SUCCESS!

FOR, HIS OTHER SENSES HAD BECOME SUPER-SENSITIVE...SHARPENED MANY TIMES ABOVE THOSE OF A NORMAL MAN!



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"BUT, IT IS WITH GOOD REASON THAT DAREDEVIL IS CALLED THE 'MAN WITHOUT FEAR'...

MY CANE IS A NON-CONDUCTOR! I'LL HURL IT AT THE SOURCE!

T-ZIT!

GOOD! GOOD! HE IS A FOE WORTHY OF MY METTLE! HE SHORT-CIRCUITED THE CURRENT JUST IN TIME!

BUT HE IS MERELY PROLONGING MY PLEASURE!

IT REQUIRED ALL OF DAREDEVIL'S SUPER-SENSES TO EVADE ELECTRO'S BOLTS OF CURRENT...

KLLLL!

CAN'T DODGE THESE BLASTS MUCH LONGER!

I'VE GOT TO FIND THE LIGHT SWITCH!

"...WHICH HE DID, UTILIZING HIS FANTASTIC SENSE OF TOUCH...

THAK!

I'VE GOT IT-- JUST IN TIME!

I'VE PLUNGED THE ROOM INTO DARKNESS! NOW THE ODDS ARE ON MY SIDE!

WAIT... WHAT'S THIS I FEEL?

IT'S A DUMB-BELL OF SOME SORT. IT WILL MAKE A PERFECT WEAPON TO HURL AT MY UNSEEN ENEMY!

"BUT, THE ENORMOUS WEIGHT HAD BEEN BOLTED TO THE FLOOR...

"AND WHILE DAREDEVIL STRUGGLED FUTILELY TO LIFT IT, HE GAVE HIS FOE THE FEW SECONDS NEEDED--

"...TO STRIKE!!

UGHH!

"NOT EVEN THE SUPERB BODY OF DAREDEVIL COULD WITHSTAND HIS ENEMY'S HIGHLY-CHARGED ELECTRICAL BOLT.

OF COURSE, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR EVENTUALLY REVIVED FROM ELECTRO'S ATTACK--

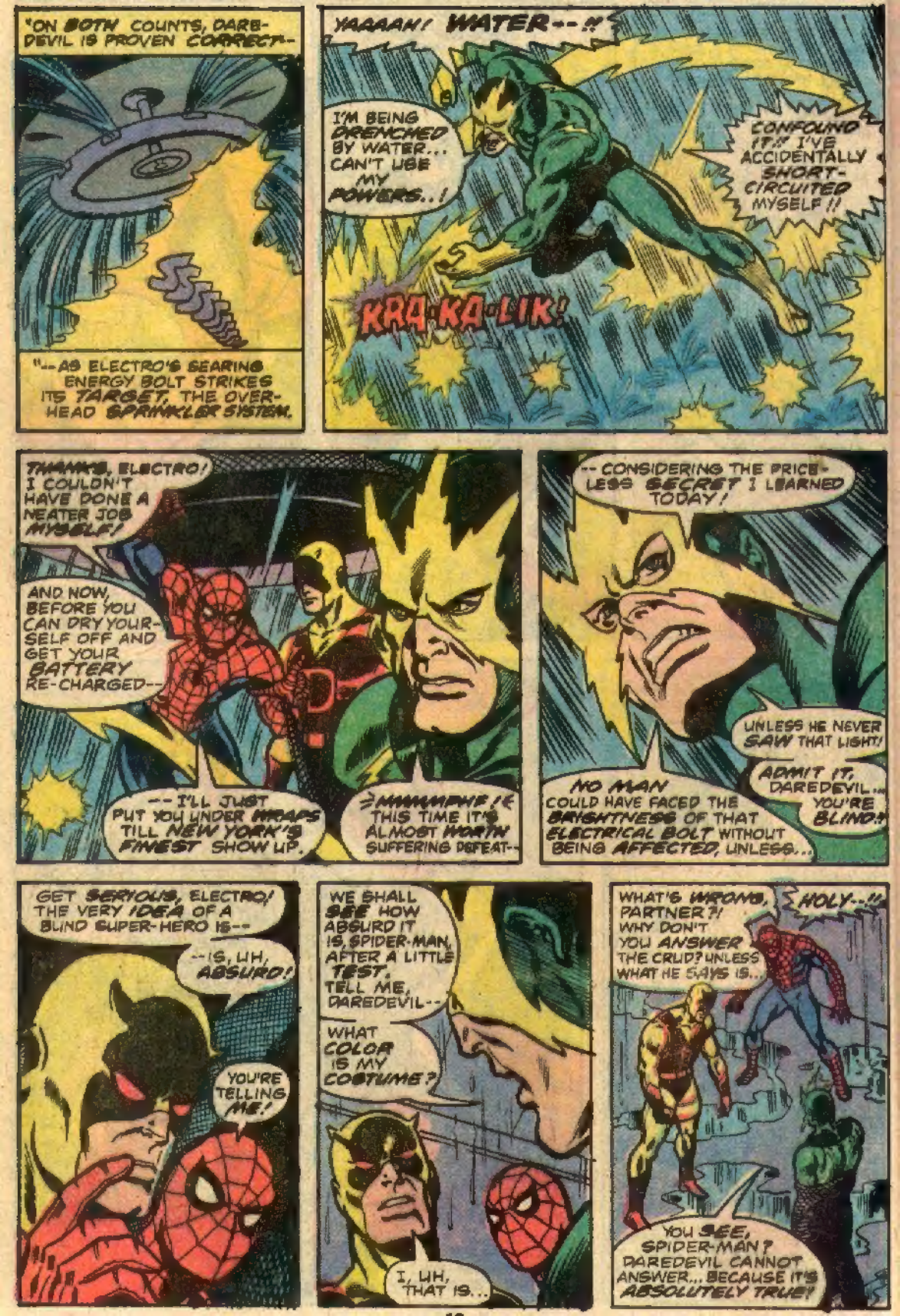
-- USING HIS SUPER-SENSES TO DEFEAT THE VILLAIN WHERE A NORMAL, SIGHTED MAN WOULD HAVE DISMALLY FAILED.

WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO OUR ORIGINAL QUESTION...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

"THIS TIME, WHEN ELECTRO STRIKES, DAREDEVIL IS NOT UNPREPARED...
CRACK!
THAT SOUND OF CRACKLING ENERGY... THAT SUDDEN FLARE OF HEAT...
HAVE TO MOVE FAST... MAKE MYSELF A DIFFICULT TARGET... IF I WANT TO STAY ALIVE!
NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!!
EVEN WITHOUT STRIKING YOU THOSE BOLTS WERE BRIGHT ENOUGH TO BLIND YOU, BUT--
TSK! TSK! DIDN'T YOU EVER LEARN IT'S NOT GOOD GRAMMAR TO END A SENTENCE WITH A CONJUNCTION?
BOF!
SPIDER-MAN--!
I CAN HEAR ELECTRO GETTING BACK UP ON HIS FEET. HAVE TO TAKE HIM OUT FAST--
--BEFORE HE CAN HIT SPIDER-MAN WITH ANOTHER OF HIS BOLTS!
WHAT?! NOW BOTH OF YOU COSTUMED CLODS ARE COMING AT ME!
GIVE THAT MAN A KEWPIE DOLL!
NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS DECIDE WHICH OF US TO BLAST FIRST!
OOOOPS! ME AND MY BIG MASKED MOUTH!! THAT BOLT ALMOST SINGED ME!
KRAK!
ARACHNID FOOL!!
NOT EVEN YOUR ACCURSED SPIDER-SPEED CAN EVADE MY BOLTS FOR LONG!

MAYBE NOT, ELECTRO! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TO GIVE THE WEB-SLINGER A HELPING HAND.. OR SHOULD I SAY FIST?!
WAK!
WHUNNN..
NICE GOING, "HORN-HEAD!"
BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH AGAINST A FOE WITH ELECTRICALLY-CHARGED FISTS!
ZZLAT!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, SPARKIE! Y'SEE, I'M GETTING TO LIKE THAT MASKED MAN!
AND WHEN YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN LIKES SOMEBODY, HE DOESN'T LIKE SEEING HIM ZAPPED--
--ESPECIALLY BY SOME JOKER'S ELECTRICAL BOLTS!
GUESS WHAT I'M TRYIN' TO SAY, ELECTRO--
--IS THAT IT'S ABOUT TIME I PULLED THE PLUG ON YOU!!
WHAT?! YOU THINK THAT FOOLISH WEBBING OF YOURS CAN STOP ME--
FAAM
--WHEN I CAN INCINERATE IT WITH A MERE GESTURE?!
UH-- HEH! GUESS THE THOUGHT HAD CROSSED MY MIND!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG, ELECTRO! FORGET ABOUT YOURS TRULY?
DARE-DEVIL AGAIN!!
YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE SAFE FROM ME ON THE CEILING?!
HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT TO MOVE...
ZAK!
...AND HOPE ELECTRO'S AIM IS ACCURATE--
--AND WHAT I HEARD IN THOSE PIPES IS WHAT I THINK IT IS!


"ON BOTH COUNTS, DAREDEVIL IS PROVEN CORRECT--
"--AS ELECTRO'S SEARING ENERGY BOLT STRIKES ITS TARGET, THE OVERHEAD SPRINKLER SYSTEM.
YAAAAH! WATER--!!
I'M BEING DRENCHED BY WATER... CAN'T USE MY POWERS..!
CONFOUND IT!! I'VE ACCIDENTALLY SHORT-CIRCUITED MYSELF!!
KRA-KA-LIK!
THANKS, ELECTRO! I COULDN'T HAVE DONE A NEATER JOB MYSELF!
AND NOW, BEFORE YOU CAN DRY YOURSELF OFF AND GET YOUR BATTERY RE-CHARGED--
--I'LL JUST PUT YOU UNDER WRAPS TILL NEW YORK'S FINEST SHOW UP.
MMMMPHH!! THIS TIME IT'S ALMOST WORTH SUFFERING DEFEAT--
--CONSIDERING THE PRICELESS SECRET I LEARNED TODAY!
UNLESS HE NEVER SAW THAT LIGHT!
ADMIT IT, DAREDEVIL... YOU'RE BLIND!
NO MAN COULD HAVE FACED THE BRIGHTNESS OF THAT ELECTRICAL BOLT WITHOUT BEING AFFECTED, UNLESS...
GET SERIOUS, ELECTRO! THE VERY IDEA OF A BLIND SUPER-HERO IS--
--IS, UH, ABSURD!
YOU'RE TELLING ME!
WE SHALL SEE HOW ABSURD IT IS, SPIDER-MAN, AFTER A LITTLE TEST. TELL ME, DAREDEVIL--
WHAT COLOR IS MY COSTUME?
I, UH, THAT IS...
WHAT'S WRONG, PARTNER?! WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER THE CRUD? UNLESS WHAT HE SAYS IS...
HOLY--!!
YOU SEE, SPIDER-MAN? DAREDEVIL CANNOT ANSWER... BECAUSE IT'S ABSOLUTELY TRUE!

"AFTER A SHORT WAIT, DURING WHICH THE TWO MASKED HEROES SAY VERY LITTLE TO EACH OTHER...
TOO BAD DAREDEVIL DIDN'T STICK AROUND. WE COULD HAVE ASKED HIM WHY ELECTRO SEEMS SO HAPPY--
BAXTER BUILDING
--FOR A GUY THAT'S GOING TO JAIL!
WELL, THEY'VE GONE, PAL. NOW, DO YOU WANT TO PALAVER?
I, UH, GUESS THERE'S NO USE IN MY DENYING IT ANY-MORE.
IT ALSO EXPLAINS YOUR COSTUME!
MY COSTUME?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LET'S FACE IT, MASKED MAN! NOBODY WITH 20-20 VISION WOULD HAVE DESIGNED A TACKY YELLOW 'N' ETC. OUTFIT LIKE THAT!
UH, I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT BELOW THE CHEST EMBLEM, D.D.! IF I OFFENDED YOU WITH THAT CRACK, I'M SORRY!
BUT FOR A GUY WHO CAN'T SEE YOU HANDLE YOURSELF BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE I'VE MET!
THERE'S A REASON WHY-- BUT IT'LL BE HARD TO BELIEVE!
TRY ME! I'M ALWAYS A SUCKER FOR A "SECRET ORIGIN"!
OKAY! I'D ALREADY TRAINED MY BODY TO PHYSICAL PERFECTION, WHEN I SAW A BLIND MAN ABOUT TO BE RUN OVER BY A SPEEDING TRUCK!
'MY FACE GOT HIT BY THE TRUCK, WHICH WAS CARRYING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, AND...
NO NEED TO FINISH! I CAN DOPE OUT THE REST
I GOT MY POWERS FROM THE BITE OF A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER.
GOOD OL' RADIO-ACTIVITY!
LUCKY FOR US SUPER-HEROES THERE ISN'T SOME CLOWN WITH A PATENT ON IT!
WELL, I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME YAKKIN'! I GOT ME A ROBOT TO FINISH FIGHTING.
THANKS FOR THE HELP.
DON'T MENTION IT! AND DON'T FOR-GET ABOUT THAT COSTUME!
YOU NEED SOME THREADS WITH A LITTLE MORE CLASS.

MARVEL® BULLPEN BULLETINS

ARCHIE GOODWIN, Editor • JIM SHOOTER, Associate Editor • ROGER STERN, RALPH MACCHIO, JO DUFFY, JIM SALICRUP, Assistant Editors • ROY THOMAS, MARV WOLFMAN, STEVE GERBER, JACK KIRBY, Consulting Editors • JOHN POMITA, [illegible] • JOHN VERPOORTEN, Production Manager • IRVING FORBUSH, Teacher's Pet

STAN'S SOAPBOX

THIS IS IT!

The world-shaking announcement you've been waiting for!

If you've ever wanted to draw your own comic strip, or even if you just wanted to learn the inside story of how it's done, here's where you get your wish! Even as you read these wondrous words with your senses reeling, "How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way" is going on sale throughout the nation! It's the only book of its kind which specializes exclusively in showing you how to draw superhero comics— and it shows you how to do it Marvel style! Designed and illustrated by Big John Buscema, it's a visual delight which will dazzle your eyes while it answers virtually any question you could ever dream up about drawing your own comic strip! As for the text, it's written by yours truly— but don't let that turn you off— you'll be so busy drooling over the illustrations that not even my little literary lunacy will bother you! And now here's the best part! You can get your happy little hands on "How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way" for only $8.95 a copy! But please, don't embarrass us with your tearful expressions of undying gratitude! Just promise one thing— after you've read the book (published by good ol' Simon & Schuster, and on sale at better book stores everywhere), and after you've learned our secrets and become the artist you've always longed to be, promise you won't go to work for our competition! And now, as you prepare for the mad dash to your neighborhood book store, I'll head for the hills before you get the idea that I'm trying to sell you something! Or, as the noble Romans might have put it, In hoc signo vinces!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! When you stroll down the hallowed halls here at mighty Marvel, there's a better than average chance you'll see *something* out of the ordinary. It could be a writer and artist throwing punches and kicks as they discuss how they're going to handle one of the quieter moments in the latest POWER MAN. It could be a shouting match between two stalwarts of the editorial department over whether Magneto is pronounced with a long or short "e"; or it could even be our exemplary editor-in-chief ARCHIE GOODWIN doing one of his famous pratfalls which have earned him applause and more than a few odd stares at various insignificant social gatherings. Let's face it, it takes quite a bit to surprise the average ambler down the corridors of Marvel. But there are some things that stop even our jaded armadillos in their tracks. . . like rounding a corner in the office and suddenly coming face-to-face with Howard the Duck! Or Spider-Woman. Or Captain America. In the flesh. It *actually* happens, although for a few moments you always wonder if you've been working too late or too long. *How* does this come about? Well, mostly through the hard work and effort of our publicist, Nifty NANCY ALLEN and her assistant, Ravishing RONI POLLOCK. They're the folks in charge of lining up actors and models to impersonate our cavorting characters at a multitude of varied functions, all the way from shopping center openings to state fairs. And just to make certain that their players are correctly costumed, Nancy or Roni usually rush them over to us comic book types for a final opinion on how they look. Hence, sometimes when we least expect it, we suddenly find ourselves eyeball-to-eyeball with a personality right off our printed pages! It's sort of neat. . . once you get over the shock. But find out for yourselves. Keep an eye and an ear on local advertising. There's no telling when your favorite Marvel superstar may be making a personal appearance; Nancy and Roni are working full-time to bring them your way!

ITEM! You know, one of our favorite TV shows was STAR TREK, and one of our biggest disappointments was that the rights to do the show as a comicbook series have always been tied up. Still, we've had the itch to do a non-superhero oriented s-f strip, and even our sensational STAR WARS book hasn't totally satisfied it. In fact, judging from the cards and letters we're getting, STAR WARS' success has sparked a demand for *more*. So, we've set Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH and Titanic TOM SUTTON to work on a science-fiction special for MARVEL PREMIERE #41. It's called SEEKER 3000, and introduces a set of characters forced to depart a doomed earth and find new salvation for humankind in the stars. We think it's out of the ordinary comics fare and we're more than just a bit excited about it. So set aside the necessary thirty-five cents; it's due your way this January. We're betting you'll find it money well spent!

ITEM! Most of this month's comings and goings seem to be in Vice President of Operations, Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY's department. Sol's got a new assistant, Bouncing BOB MARCZAK, to help keep our torrent of special merchandising projects (you know, all those books, records, cups, and other products that feature our characters) flowing smoothly. But the Jolly One spent a few misty-eyed moments what with his secretary Living LINDA TAXEL, abandoning him for a special project of her own, namely the imminent arrival of her first child. Fortunately Fetching FLORENCE TUMMINELLO has stepped neatly into the ranks to fill the vacancy. So, a big "welcome" to you, Florence, and to Bob, plus an equally big "we'll miss you and best wishes on the new addition to the family" to Linda!

ITEM! If a lot of large "oooooohs and aaaaahs" have been echoing out onto Madison Avenue from 575, it may just be because the boisterous Bullpen has started getting a look at some of the original art done by Big JOHN BUSCEMA for the up and coming CONAN THE BARBARIAN comic strip. We don't want to say too much about it here, because Rascally ROY THOMAS, who just happens to be the *writer* of the strip as well as editor scribe, and guiding light of all our Conan material, has prepared a special article on the subject for issue #27 of SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, which also just happens to be going on sale about this time. The strip, which will run both daily and Sunday, should be appearing sometime in early Spring. Like SPIDER-MAN and HOWARD THE DUCK, it's being distributed by the nice folks of the Register and Tribune Syndicate. We don't have any way of knowing yet which newspapers will carry it, but it might not hurt to ask your local paper if they are considering it. If they're not, your inquiry might just sway them into doing so. Crom will thank you for it!

MAKE MINE MARVEL!

DAREDEVIL DOES IN FACT, REDESIGN HIS COSTUME... NOT ONLY TO MAKE IT MORE IN KEEPING WITH THE "DEVIL" IN HIS NAME--

--BUT ALSO IN AN ATTEMPT TO THINK OF OTHER MATTERS ... THAN THE INEVITABLE MEDIA EXPLOSION..!

FINAL DAILY BUGLE 15¢

DAREDEVIL BLIND

SIGHTLESS ADVENTURER CAPTURES ELECTRO.

MAN! WA,T'LL YOU GET A LOAD OF THIS!!

IN A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE FROM STATE PRISON FORMER ELECTRIC LINEMAN MAX DILLON--ALIAS ELECTRO--REVEALED--

--THAT THE MASKED CRIME-FIGHTER KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL IS, SAYS DILLON, "BLIND AS A BAT!"

...AND I TELL YOU THAT TH S DAREDEVIL VIGILANTE, TAKING THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS, CONSTITUTES A BLACK MARK AGAINST ALL HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, AND.

SO UNUSUAL IS THE CONCEPT OF A BLIND SUPER-HERO, THAT THE NEWS SOON SWEEPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

AND YET, IT IS NOT SO FAR AWAY THAT THE REVELATION WILL HAVE ITS GREATEST IMPORT...

"FOR, HIGH ATOP THE PALISADES ACROSS THE HUDSON RIVER, IS THE AERIE RESIDENCE OF ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS...

"FROM HIS PERCH, HE CASTS HIS AMBITIOUS GAZE ACROSS THE HUDSON, TO THE LIGHTS OF MANHATTAN...

ONCE I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING NO OTHER CRIMINAL HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE UNDERWORLD WILL NOT DARE DISPUTE MY LEADERSHIP.

BUT IT MUST BE SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT... SO SIGNIFICANT THAT IT WILL BE WORTHY OF MY GENIUS!

YES, IT MUST BE SOMETHING THAT WILL FORCE EVERY CRIMINAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE OWL... AS THE OVERLORD OF CRIME!

"YET, THE OWL'S PLANNING HAS TO WAIT, AS HE SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF IN NEED OF AN ATTORNEY-*

* AS IN DAREDEVIL #3. -- R.T.

"ON THIS EARTH, AS ON YOUR OWN, THE OWL SELECTS A NAME AT RANDOM FROM A NEW YORK TELEPHONE DIRECTORY... THAT OF MATT MURDOCK...

IT'S INCREDIBLE!! I CAN TELL BY THE SOUND OF HIS HEARTBEAT, HIS PULSE RATE, HIS LABORED BREATHINGS... THE MAN IS CHARGED WITH SHEER ANIMAL POWER WITH ALMOST LIMITLESS ENERGY... ALL OF IT DIRECTED INTO EVIL CHANNELS!

SO, THE MAN WHO IS TO BE MY LAWYER IS BLIND, IS HE?

UNWITTINGLY, HE HAS GIVEN ME A MOST PERFECT IDEA!

FOR, IT IS A KNOWN FACT THAT DAREDEVIL IS ALSO BLIND...

...DAREDEVIL, WHO HAS DEFEATED EVERY CRIMINAL WHO HAS CROSSED HIS PATH!

BUT, THE OWL SHALL CAPTURE DAREDEVIL... AND TURN HIM OVER TO THE UNDERWORLD!

AND I SHALL DO SO BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DAREDEVIL'S ONLY HANDICAP!

TO PERFORM AS HE DOES, HIS OTHER SENSES MUST BE HEIGHTENED! THUS...

"LATER, IN THE OFFICES OF NELSON AND MURDOCK...

WHERE THE OWL HAD PLANNED TO FORCE MATT MURDOCK TO BECOME HIS SERVILE LAWYER...

IT'S DAREDEVIL!!

"AT LEAST FOR A WHILE, THE BATTLE CONTINUES AS IT DOES IN A LIKE SITUATION...IN YOUR REALITY. .

THERE MUST BE BETTER WAYS TO SPEND A DAY!

LOOK OUT, YOU CLUMSY FOOLS!

WHAM!

"BUT UPON THIS PARALLEL EARTH, DESTINY HAS ORDAINED A DIFFERENT CLIMAX...

"ON THIS WORLD, THE OWL HAS COME PREPARED!

IN MY PROFESSION, I'VE LEARNED TO ALWAYS BE READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED.

WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AMPLIFIES THE SOUND OF MY OWN HOOTING... AND EMITS ALL MANNER OF CONFLICTING ODORS!

HOOT! HOOT! HOOT! HOOT

HOOT! HOOT! HOOT

ALL MY SENSES ARE BEING THROWN OFF! LIKE BEING IN A NIGHTMARE... CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE...

HE'S UP FOR GRABS NOW, MEN! BRUISE HIM...BUT DON'T KILL HIM!!

"WITH SUCH A CACOPHONY RESOUNDING FROM THE ROOM, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE DOOR SUDDENLY OPENS...

HOOT HOO

H

A FIGHT ...IT'S DAREDEVIL!!

WAS THAT KAREN'S VOICE? CAN'T TELL... HOOTING SO DEAFENING... BRAIN BEING POUNDED SENSELESS!

YOU'RE...YOU'RE KILLING DAREDEVIL!

N-NO... DON'T TOUCH ME!

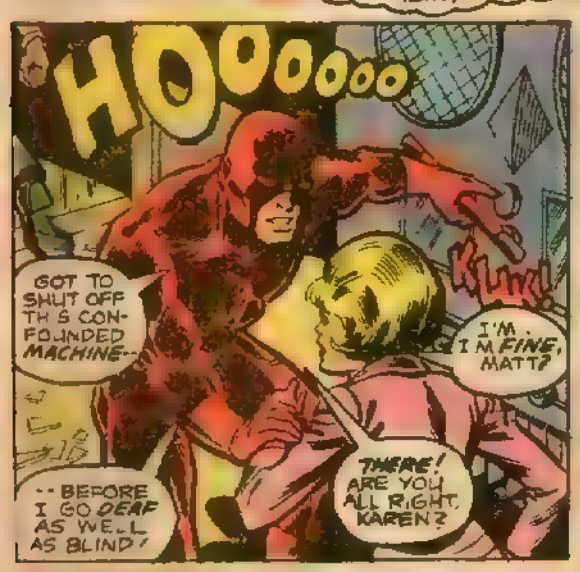
YOU SEEM TO HAVE CONCERN FOR DAREDEVIL! SO PERHAPS WE CAN PURSUADE HIM TO SURRENDER--

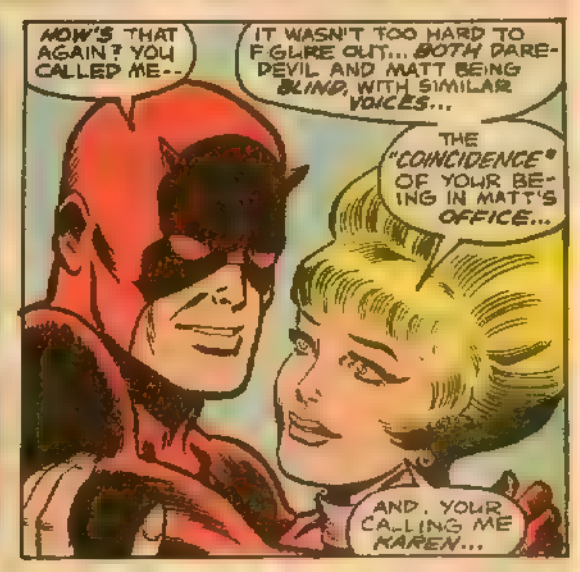
--BEFORE HE'S DAMAGED ANY FURTHER!

IT IS KAREN! I'VE MANAGED TO ISOLATE THE SCENT OF HER PERFUME FROM THE OWL'S MANY SMELLS!
HOOT!
KAREN, GET OUT OF HERE!
NOW, IF I CAN GET AWAY FROM THESE THUGS--

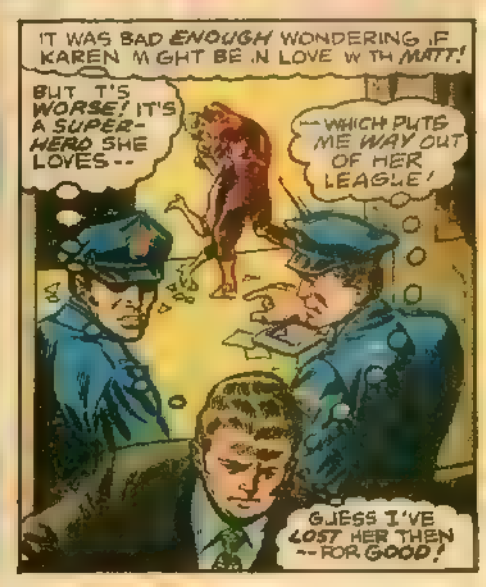
HOOT!
"WITH A MASTER THROW, THE BILLYCLUB FINDS ITS MARK...
KLANG!
HOOT!
--AND GET MY BEARINGS LONG ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WHERE THAT BURGLAR ALARM IS...!
BULL'S EYE!!

HE SET OFF THE ALARM! IN A FEW MOMENTS THIS PLACE WILL BE OVERRUN BY SECURITY GUARDS!
AND SINCE NO ONE YET HAS ANY SOLID EVIDENCE AGAINST ME, WE'D BEST BE OFF!
WE'LL GET DAREDEVIL SOME OTHER TIME!
AS FOR THE MACHINE... LEAVE IT!
I HAVE OTHERS


HOOOOOO
KLINK!
GOT TO SHUT OFF THIS CONFOUNDED MACHINE--
I'M, I'M FINE, MATT?
THERE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KAREN?
--BEFORE I GO DEAF AS WELL AS BLIND!


HOW'S THAT AGAIN? YOU CALLED ME--
IT WASN'T TOO HARD TO FIGURE OUT... BOTH DAREDEVIL AND MATT BEING BLIND, WITH SIMILAR VOICES...
THE "COINCIDENCE" OF YOUR BEING IN MATT'S OFFICE...
AND, YOUR CALLING ME KAREN...

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO! WANTA EXPLAIN WHAT'S BEEN GOIN' ON IN HERE?
UH, NEVER MIND. HIGGINS, IT'S JUST MY SECRETARY, MISS PAGE, AND...
YOU FELLAS CAN LEAVE NOW!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MR. NELSON!


IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WONDERING IF KAREN MIGHT BE IN LOVE WITH MATT!
BUT IT'S WORSE! IT'S A SUPER-HERO SHE LOVES--
--WHICH PUTS ME WAY OUT OF HER LEAGUE!
GUESS I'VE LOST HER THEN --FOR GOOD!

"NOW LISTEN AND WATCH, AS I UTILIZE MY ABILITY TO MOVE FORWARD THROUGH TIME..

I HEARD FROM DR. VAN EYCK, THE EYE SPECIALIST FROM BOSTON!

HE STILL THINKS HE MIGHT HELP YOU TO SEE.

IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL TO HAVE MY SIGHT, KAREN. *

* PARALLEL EVENTS FROM D.D. #8. --ROY

TO BE ABLE TO FEAST MY EYES ON YOUR FEATURES... THAT FACE WHICH MY FINGERS HAVE TOLD ME IS SO YOUNG, SO LOVELY...

MATT, IF ONLY YOU'D UNDERGO DR VAN EYCK'S OPERATION! IF ONLY YOU COULD REGAIN YOUR SIGHT--

WELL, MAYBE NOW, CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES--

WAIT! I CAN HEAR SOMEONE ENTERING THE BUILDING!

AND FROM HIS FACE, HIS BREATHING, HIS GRUMBLING VOICE, IT CAN ONLY BE FOGGY!

DING!

QUICK, KAREN. WE CAN SLIP OUT THIS BACK EXIT! I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING--

EXIT

--AND IT'S BEST THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHO HEARS IT!

"BEFORE THE ELEVATOR HAS OPENED--

"--MATT MURDOCK AND THE WOMAN HE LOVES HAVE VANISHED DOWN THE BACK STAIRS...

SAY, MATT, THERE'S-- HUH?!

THAT'S ODD! THE OFFICE IS EMPTY!

BUT NEITHER MATT NOR KAREN WOULD JUST LEAVE WITHOUT LOCKING UP--

--UNLESS MATT WAS CALLED OUT ON BUSINESS AND THEN DAREDEVIL CAME BY TO SWEEP KAREN OFF HER FEET AGAIN!

"ACTUALLY, IT'S NOTHING SO DRAMATIC, AS FOGGY NELSON WOULD KNOW IF HE COULD PEER INTO CENTRAL PARK...

...AND I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID THAT AN EYE OPERATION MIGHT TAKE AWAY ALL OF DAREDEVIL'S SUPER-SENSES!

MAY I REMIND YOU, MR. MURDOCK THAT YOUR POWERS WERE ALMOST USELESS AGAINST THE OWL!

WELL, DO WE GO SEE DR VAN EYCK?

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE EVERY OTHER CRIMINAL IN NEW YORK IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR WEAKNESSES!

UNABLE TO FIND FAULT IN HER LOGIC, MATT MURDOCK FINALLY AGREES TO VISIT THE DOCTOR!

BUT VAN EYCK HAS LEFT THE UNITED STATES AND NOW RESIDES IN LICHTENBAD!*

PRESENTLY, MURDOCK AND KAREN PAGE ARE DESCENDING OVER THE SMALL MEDIEVAL STYLE EUROPEAN PRINCIPALITY.

AMONG THEIR FELLOW PASSENGERS IS MURDOCK'S FORMER CLASSMATE AND LICHTENBAD'S HEREDITARY RULER--

*SEE D.D. #9. --ROY

"--DUKE KLAUS KRUGER!

DEATH TO TYRANTS!! LONG LIVE FREEDOM!

YOUR BULLETS CANNOT HARM ME!

KRAK! KRAK! KRAK!

STAY BACK, GUARDS! A KARATE BLOW IS ALL I WILL NEED!

THAK!

UHHH..!

DO HE THINK I WOULD BE CARELESS ENOUGH TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC WITHOUT A BULLET-PROOF VEST?!

TO THE DUNGEONS WITH HIM!

I'VE NEVER SENSED AN ATMOSPHERE SO CHARGED WITH SHEER, NAKED HATRED!

AND IT'S DIRECTED AT KRUGER! THE PEOPLE DESPISE HIM!

"AFTER BEING DRIVEN IN THE DUKE'S OWN HEAVILY-ARMORED AUTOMOBILE...AND ESCORTED TO A CLOSELY GUARDED ROOM...

I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH DR. VAN EYCK NOW! REPORT TO ME TOMORROW!

SO YOU ARE MATTHEW MURDOCK? I HAVE HEARD OF YOU!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

DOCTOR, WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LICHTENBAD? WHAT IS EVERYONE AFRAID OF? AND WHY ARE YOU HERE?

NO! NO! DO NOT TALK OF SUCH MATTERS! EVEN THE WALLS HAVE EARS!

BUT MURDOCK'S SUPER-SHARP HEARING MONITORS SNATCHES OF SPEECH FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE BUILDING

WE MUST REVOLT!

BE BRAVE! WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL!

IT'S DEATH TO DEFY THE DUKE!

HIS SPIES ARE EVERYWHERE!

I'M INNOCENT! I SWEAR IT!

AND, AS THE DOCTOR BRIEFLY TURNS AWAY FROM HIS PATIENT...

I'M AFRAID THE OPERATION WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL TOMORROW, KAREN!

I'VE GOT TO LEARN WHAT POWER KLAUS HOLDS OVER HIS PEOPLE.. HOW HE'S MANAGED TO ENSLAVE THEM!

AND I CAN DO IT BEST AS DAREDEVIL!

NO, MATT! PLEASE! WE'VE COME THIS FAR! DON'T JEOPARDIZE GETTING BACK YOUR SIGHT!

REMEMBER, THE NEWS OF DAREDEVIL'S BLINDNESS HAS SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD-- EVEN HERE!

GUESS YOU WIN AGAIN, KAREN!

THUS, DR. VAN EYCK PERFORMS HIS OPERATION, WHILE A HOPEFUL MATT MURDOCK AND KAREN PAGE WAIT

AND LISTEN...!

EVEN IF THE OPERATION IS A SUCCESS, THE DUKE WILL MAKE YOU A PRISONER ...AS I AM!

BUT IF YOU COULD SOMEHOW GET BY THE DUKE'S ROBOT GUARDS... NOT BY THE EMBASSY, THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE FOR ALL OF US!

OUR HIDDEN MICROPHONES HAVE PICKED UP YOUR TREASONOUS REMARKS! YOU MUST BE PUNISHED, DOCTOR!

SLAM!

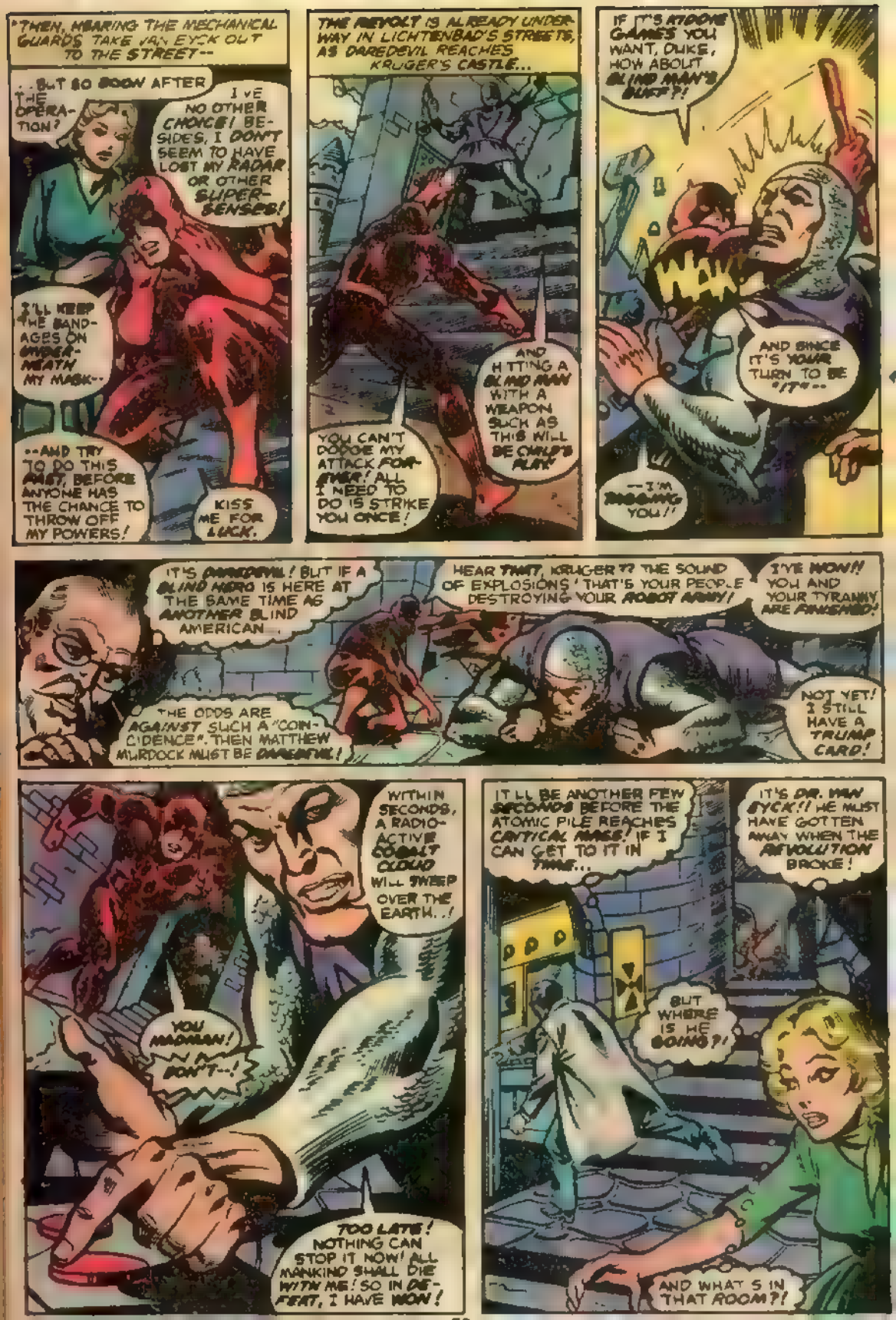
SEIZE HIM!!

KRUGER'S INHUMAN GUARD!!

[illegible] SIGHTLESS ONE! YOUR FATE WILL BE DECIDED LATER...!

THEY'RE TAKING HIM AWAY... AND AFTER HE RISKED HIS LIFE TELLING ME WHAT HE DID!

I CAN'T.. NO! I WON'T LET HIM DOWN, DESPITE THE RISK!


"THEN, WEARING THE MECHANICAL GUARDS TAKE VAN EYCK OUT TO THE STREET--
..BUT SO SOON AFTER THE OPERATION?
I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE! BESIDES, I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY RADAR OR OTHER SUPER-SENSES!
I'LL KEEP THE BANDAGES ON UNDERNEATH MY MASK--
--AND TRY TO DO THIS FAST, BEFORE ANYONE HAS THE CHANCE TO THROW OFF MY POWERS!
KISS ME FOR LUCK.
THE REVOLT IS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN LICHTENBAD'S STREETS, AS DAREDEVIL REACHES KRUGER'S CASTLE...
YOU CAN'T DODGE MY ATTACK FOREVER! ALL I NEED TO DO IS STRIKE YOU ONCE!
AND HITTING A BLIND MAN WITH A WEAPON SUCH AS THIS WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY
IF IT'S ATDODGE GAMES YOU WANT, DUKE, HOW ABOUT BLIND MAN'S BUFF?!
WAH
AND SINCE IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE "IT"--
--I'M TAGGING YOU!
IT'S DAREDEVIL! BUT IF A BLIND HERO IS HERE AT THE SAME TIME AS ANOTHER BLIND AMERICAN...
THE ODDS ARE AGAINST SUCH A "COINCIDENCE". THEN MATTHEW MURDOCK MUST BE DAREDEVIL!
HEAR THAT, KRUGER?? THE SOUND OF EXPLOSIONS! THAT'S YOUR PEOPLE DESTROYING YOUR ROBOT ARMY!
I'VE WON!! YOU AND YOUR TYRANNY ARE FINISHED!
NOT YET! I STILL HAVE A TRUMP CARD!
WITHIN SECONDS, A RADIO-ACTIVE COBALT CLOUD WILL SWEEP OVER THE EARTH..!
YOU MADMAN! DON'T--!
TOO LATE! NOTHING CAN STOP IT NOW! ALL MANKIND SHALL DIE WITH ME! SO IN DEFEAT, I HAVE WON!
IT'LL BE ANOTHER FEW SECONDS BEFORE THE ATOMIC PILE REACHES CRITICAL MASS! IF I CAN GET TO IT IN TIME...
IT'S DR. VAN EYCK!! HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WHEN THE REVOLUTION BROKE!
BUT WHERE IS HE GOING?!
AND WHAT'S IN THAT ROOM?!

IT REQUIRES BUT A LOOK INTO THAT ROOM FOR KAREN PAGE TO HAVE HER ANSWER...

OH, MY GOD! HE'LL BE KILLED!!

I MUSTN'T BE TOO LATE. I MUSTN'T!!

DAREDEVIL! DR VAN EYCK... HE'S TRYING TO SHUT DOWN THE ATOMIC PILE!!

KLUD

THEN I'LL HAVE TO FINISH OFF DUKY FAST--

—AND HOPE I CAN GET TO THAT PILE BEFORE VAN EYCK TAKES TOO MUCH RADIATION!

LORD KNOWS, AFTER WHAT HE DID FOR ME, I CAN'T LET THE DOCTOR DIE! I WON'T!!

SORRY FOR THE SHOVE, DOCTOR! BUT THE YANKS HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE TAKING OVER!

NOW, IF I REMEMBER MY HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS, I'VE GOT TO DISCONNECT THE RODS!

NEED JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS... THE RADIATION... THE PAIN, SO INTENSE...

WHEW! IT'S OVER! THERE'S NO MORE DANGER OF THIS THING GOING!

BUT, I FEEL WEIRD ALL OVER LIKE SOMETHING'S CHANGING INSIDE ME!

DOCTOR PLEASE GET ME A GEIGER COUNTER.

YES, MY FRIEND! AT ONCE!

STRANGELY, THE GEIGER-COUNTER SHOWS THAT DAREDEVIL IS NOT RADIOACTIVE...

YOU ARE NOT CONTAMINATED, MR. MURDOCK!

UH WHAT DO YOU CALL ME?

MY PREVIOUS DEDUCTION IS CONFIRMED BY YOUR AFFECTION TOWARD MISS PAGE!

BUT DON'T WORRY! YOUR SECRET WILL BE SAFE WITH ME!

LATER, IN AN OFFICE NO LONGER WATCHED BY ROBOT GUARDS.
THERE, MR. MURDOCK! I HAVE REMOVED THE BANDAGES!
IT'S... STILL DARK, DOCTOR. NO, I'M BEGINNING TO PERCEIVE A LIGHT...
... AND NOW AN IMAGE... GRADUALLY COMING INTO FOCUS...
A BEAUTIFUL IMAGE!
KAREN!!
OH, MATT! YOU CAN SEE!
SHE'S AS LOVELY AS I ALWAYS KNEW SHE D BE--
--AS MY SUPER-KEEN SENSES LET ME IMAGINE HER TO BE!
"BUT AS MURDOCK TOUCHES HER, WHIFFS THE FRAGRANCE OF HER PERFUME, FEELS HER RACING HEARTBEAT AGAINST HIS CHEST--
"--HE KNOWS..
THEY'RE GONE, DOCTOR --ALL OF MY SUPER-HEIGHTENED SENSES!
BUT... BUT I HAD THEM ALL WHEN I FOUGHT KRUGER ..AND WHEN I SHUT DOWN THE ATOMIC PILE?!
THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE PILE THAT HAS ROBBED YOU OF YOUR ULTRA-SENSES!
ORIGINALLY IT WAS A POWERFUL DOSE OF RADIATION THAT GAVE YOU YOUR POWERS!
AND NOW, ANOTHER DOSE.. HAS TAKEN THEM AWAY!
IRONIC AND UNFORTUNATE, IS IT NOT?! THAT IN SAVING THE WORLD FROM A CATASTROPHE--
--YOU HAVE ALSO ROBBED IT OF A GREAT CHAMPION!
GUESS THAT LEAVES MATT MURDOCK JUST AN AVERAGE, NORMAL GUY! BUT WHAT ABOUT OL' "HORN-HEAD"?
LIFE MIGHT JUST BE STARTING... BUT HAS DAREDEVIL'S COME TO AN END?
WELL, I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT LATER!
COME ON, HONEY! LET'S GO HOME!

"WEEKS PASS, AND THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR MYSTERIOUSLY DOES NOT APPEAR IN PUBLIC...

"THEN ONE NIGHT, AS MATT MURDOCK RETURNS TO HIS MANHATTAN APARTMENT..."

WE BEEN WAITIN' FOR YOU, MURDOCK! AND SINCE YOU CAN SEE THIS GUN--

--YOU KNOW WE AIN'T KIDDIN'!!

YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US TO DEFEND SOMEONE IN A TRIAL!

AND IF YA LOSE, THE BOSS SAYS IT'S CURTAINS FOR 'IM!

"SEE D.D. #20 --R.T

"WHILE, SHORTLY THEREAFTER, IN THE BIZARRE HOME OF THE MYSTERIOUS 'BOSS'...

AH! JUDGE LEWIS! HOW COULD I FORGET THE JUDGE WHO SENTENCED ME TO PRISON--

--AFTER THE POLICE CAUGHT ME DURING MY ESCAPE FROM DADE-DEVALTY!

YOU MADMAN! WHAT CAN YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY THIS NON-SENSE?

JUSTICE, JUDGE! THE OWL'S BRAND OF JUSTICE!

"BUT, THE OWL'S MOCK TRIAL CANNOT BEGIN, UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF A PRIVATE JET ON HIS ISLE...

SO IT'S THE OWL WHO SENT THESE GOONS AFTER ME!

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!

AWRIGHT, MURDOCK--KEEP MOVIN'! THE BOSS DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITIN'!

JUDGE LEWIS!! BUT--

COME IN, MURDOCK --COME IN!

THE OMNIVOROUS OWL WELCOMES YOU TO HIS COURTROOM!

YOUR CLIENT IS JUDGE LEWIS, WHO STANDS ACCUSED OF DARING TO SENTENCE ME TO PRISON!

"ADHERING TO THE OWL'S DEMAND THAT EVERYTHING BE DONE 'BY THE BOOK', MURDOCK DOES HIS BEST TO DEFEND HIS CLIENT, BUT..

I DECLARE IT ILLEGAL TO SENTENCE THE OWL TO PRISON--

--AND THE PUNISHMENT FOR THAT CRIME IS-- DEATH!

"PAINFULLY AWARE THAT THE OWL'S TRIAL CAN ONLY LEAD TO THE JUDGE'S DEATH, MURDOCK CHANGES HIS TACTICS

IF THIS IS A REAL TRIAL, I DEMAND TO CALL A WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE!

THEN CALL YOUR WITNESS, MURDOCK--PROVIDING YOU CAN FIND ONE ON THIS ISLE! HOOT! HOOT!

"AND, IN LESS THAN A MINUTE, MATT MURDOCK FINDS HIS WITNESS. !

I THOUGHT MURDOCK WOULD NEVER GIVE ME THE SIGNAL! I WAS BEGINNING TO GROW IMPATIENT OUT THERE!

AND NOW THAT I'VE MADE MY ATTORNEY FRIEND COMFORTABLE IN A SAFE PLACE OUTSIDE, I'M HERE TO GIVE MY TESTIMONY--

--WITH THE FUN-FILLED FISTS OF EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE MAN WITHOUT FEAR--!

IT'S THAT BLIND CRIMEBUSTER! BUT I THOUGHT THE CREEP HUNG UP HIS MASK!

SLAM!

I'LL STOP IM! MAYBE HE'S GOT SUPER-SENSES, BUT BULLET-PROOF HE AIN'T!

DON'T BE A PARTY POOP, CLYDE! I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS!

YOU STUPID, ARROGANT FOOL!!

HOOT!

YOU DARE COME TO MY ROOST, WHERE THERE ARE DEVICES CAPABLE OF THROWING OFF YOUR SENSES?!

THE BLIND MAN IS NO LONGER A THREAT TO YOU. RUSH HIM!

HOOT! HOOT! HOOT!

--AND THIS TIME, THERE'S NO NEED TO SPARE HIS LIFE!!

YOU HEARD THE BOSS, GUYS!

THUD!

I HEARD! AND BELIEVE ME, THIS JOB'S GONNA BE A REAL PLEASURE!

NOPEED!

BUT A PLEASURE FOR YOU... OR ME?!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

HMMM... THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, I BELIEVE IT'S FOR ME!

FTOOF!

KRAK!

GUESS IT'S US THUGS THAT REALLY HAVE ALL THE FUN!

NO! THIS CANNOT BE! BY NOW YOUR SENSES SHOULD BE SO DIS-ORIENTED--

--THAT YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE STANDING, LET ALONE MOPPING UP THE FLOOR WITH MY HENCHMEN!

GUESS I'M JUST FULL OF SURPRISES TONIGHT EH, OWL?

YA OUGHTA SPEND MORE TIME FIGHTIN'-- AND LESS GABBIN', MASKED MAN!

CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD! HE WOULDN'T HAVE... IF I STILL HAD MY RADAR!

SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE! DAREDEVIL WAS NOT AFFECTED BY MY MACHINE... AND SEEMS NOT TO BE EVEN USING HIS SUPER-SENSES!

STILL, HE FIGHTS EFFICIENTLY ...FEAR-LESSLY.

IN THE EVENT THAT THOSE BUNGLERS OF MINE DON'T STOP HIM, I'D BEST INSURE MY ACE-IN-THE-HOLE!

AS THE OWL SLIPS SILENTLY FROM THE ROOM, HE SEES DAREDEVIL TEAR HIM-SELF FREE OF HIS OPPONENT.

WITH MY SUPER-SENSES, I COULD FINISH UP THESE OAFS IN HALF THE TIME!

BUT I'M STILL IN TOP SHAPE AND MY VISION'S PER-FECT! SO MAYBE DAREDEVIL CAN CONTINUE HIS CAREER AFTER-ALL!

SHISH!

--MAKING LIKE A RED-SUITED CAPTAIN AMERICA!!

HERE-- THIS'LL PROTECT YOU FROM THAT DRAFTY WINDOW!

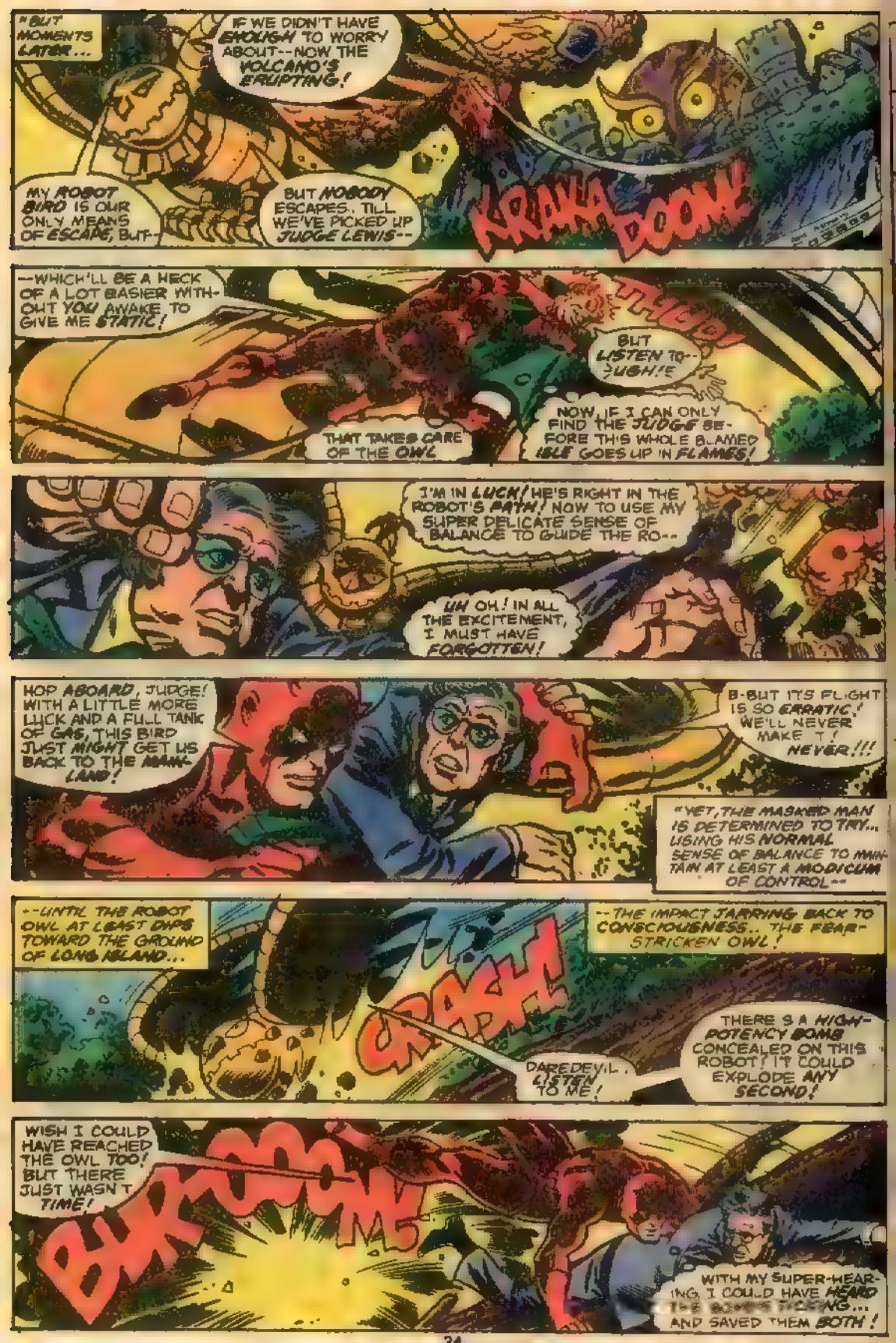
WE WOULDN'T WANT A BIG, BAD GUNMAN TO CATCH A NASTY COLD, WOULD WE?

WHEW... GOOD THING I SAW THIS LAST GUY IN TIME!

NOW, IS THAT A FAIR WAY TO FIGHT--

--SNEAKING UP ON ME LIKE THAT ON YOUR TIPPY-TOES?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


"BUT MOMENTS LATER...
IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT--NOW THE VOLCANO'S ERUPTING!
MY ROBOT BIRD IS OUR ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE, BUT--
BUT NOBODY ESCAPES.. TILL WE'VE PICKED UP JUDGE LEWIS--
KRAKA DOOM
--WHICH'LL BE A HECK OF A LOT EASIER WITHOUT YOU AWAKE TO GIVE ME STATIC!
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE OWL
THUD!
BUT LISTEN TO--SUSH!E
NOW, IF I CAN ONLY FIND THE JUDGE BEFORE THIS WHOLE BLAMED ISLE GOES UP IN FLAMES!
I'M IN LUCK! HE'S RIGHT IN THE ROBOT'S PATH! NOW TO USE MY SUPER DELICATE SENSE OF BALANCE TO GUIDE THE RO--
UH OH! IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT, I MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN!
HOP ABOARD, JUDGE! WITH A LITTLE MORE LUCK AND A FULL TANK OF GAS, THIS BIRD JUST MIGHT GET US BACK TO THE MAINLAND!
B-BUT ITS FLIGHT IS SO ERRATIC! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT! NEVER!!!
"YET, THE MASKED MAN IS DETERMINED TO TRY... USING HIS NORMAL SENSE OF BALANCE TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST A MODICUM OF CONTROL--
--UNTIL THE ROBOT OWL AT LEAST DIPS TOWARD THE GROUND OF LONG ISLAND...
--THE IMPACT JARRING BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS.. THE FEAR-STRICKEN OWL!
CRASH!
DAREDEVIL, LISTEN TO ME!
THERE'S A HIGH-POTENCY BOMB CONCEALED ON THIS ROBOT! IT COULD EXPLODE ANY SECOND!
WISH I COULD HAVE REACHED THE OWL TOO! BUT THERE JUST WASN'T TIME!
BURROOM
WITH MY SUPER-HEARING, I COULD HAVE HEARD THE BOMB'S TICKING... AND SAVED THEM BOTH!

"DAYS PASS, WHILE MATT MURDOCK'S THOUGHTS ARE WEIGHTY. THEN, CERTAIN THAT HE HAS MADE THE CORRECT DECISION, HE CALLS A PRESS CONFERENCE.

AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, I'VE BEEN BLIND DURING MOST OF MY CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER--

--AND HAVE RELIED ON MY RADAR AND OTHER SUPER-SENSES TO COMPENSATE IT!

BUT NOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED! NEITHER AM I BLIND ANYMORE--NOR DO I HAVE THOSE SUPER-KEEN SENSES!

MAN, MR JANESON! LISTEN TO THAT HERO TALK!

SINCE DAREDEVIL NO LONGER REALLY EXISTS AS HE ONCE WAS... AND SINCE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE FIGURING OUT HIS TRUE IDENTITY--

--THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO WEAR THIS MASK ANYMORE! FROM NOW ON--

--I'M SIMPLY MATTHEW MURDOCK, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW!

"THE CROWD GASPS IN AMAZEMENT WHILE MURDOCK CONTINUES...

BUT, THOUGH I'M GIVING UP MY DAREDEVIL IDENTITY, I HAVE NOT GIVEN UP MY WAR AGAINST CRIME!

WITH YOUR HELP... YOUR SUPPORT.. I'LL CHANGE MY EMBLEM FROM "D.D." ...TO "D.A.!

YES, I'M ANNOUNCING MY CANDIDACY FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY!

OH, MATT, DARLING--

HOW LONG I'VE WAITED TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!

I DON'T THINK I COULD STAND THE STRAIN OF BEING A SUPER-HERO'S WIFE!

SO, FOGGY NELSON LOSES AGAIN ...BOTH KAREN--

--AND ANY ASPIRATIONS I MIGHT HAVE HAD FOR BEING D.A. MYSELF!

BUT I'M IN THEIR CORNER FROM NOW ON... AND I WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS!

WE BYPASS A WEDDING ...A LAND-SLIDE ELECTION... AND..

DAILY BU

MURDOCK ELECTED D.A.

HEY, "HORN-HEAD"! HOW'S LIFE TREATING YOU?

COULDN'T BE BETTER, SPIDEY! BUT I'M NOT A SUPER-HERO ANYMORE! REMEMBER?

HA! YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A SUPER-HERO IN MY BOOK!

THUS, WE COME TO WHAT YOUR CULTURE WOULD CALL... A "HAPPY ENDING"!

BUT, SUPPOSE MATT MURDOCK HAD NOT GIVEN UP HIS DARE-DEVIL CAREER?

WHAT IF HE CONTINUED BEING DARE-DEVIL WITHOUT EXTRA SENSES?

INDEED... WHAT IF...?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

WHY NOT?

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Hi Guys!

Undoubtedly, your WHAT IF series has become quite popular. May I add that this success is well deserved. So far, the stories have been quite interesting, and the artwork better than average.

Unfortunately, there's just one small problem. So far, not one story has had even a slightly optimistic ending. Why, in the last two issues alone, *three* Captain Americas have been killed! Before that, the original Iron Man snuffed it; the Hulk was made totally human only to have the Thing become an equivalent nasty; and Reed Richards lost the only girl he ever loved. This is how these stories have ended— depressing, isn't it? True, there were hints of carrying on, and things must get better (if only because they can't get any worse). But the fact remains that all five WHAT IF stories to date have ended in one kind of sadness or another. Don't you guys like happy endings anymore? They have been known to occur in real life occasionally, so why not in WHAT IF? Have a heart, guys! Let's have an upbeat ending in the very near future; I'm running out of Kleenex.

Sheldon A. Wiebe
#1904-912 6th Ave., S.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 0V6

We'll do our best, Shel, if only because we too are aware that—while the degree, we think, have varied widely— the endings of WHAT IF #1-5 were a bit too downbeat, at least *en masse*. That's one of the problems with having various writers— three of them on the first five issues— go more or less their own way. If they all hit on similar or at least related types of endings, and all are working independently, we kinda hate to force them into a happy mold. But, now that Roy is at least editing all issues again, he's attempting to take the reins in hand, and we think you'll see an even wider variety of climaxes in WHAT IF. Only thing is, what do you call the ending of an issue like, say, #6, with the different-powered Fantastic Four? Upbeat— or downbeat? Ditto #7, where some tragedies occurred— yet a Spider-Man emerged. And this issue is, perhaps, the most solidly upbeat issue yet. But don't get too used to that kind of ending, either— 'cause WHAT IF is the one Marvel mag where anything, literally *anything*, can happen!

People:

"What if" the real Steve Rogers read comics? The only outcome would be a guy riding for the edge!

After the last two issues of WHAT IF, where else could he be going? How many more Captain Americas we gonna get? All this stuff could drive a person crazy.

When you first came out with the title, I thought, "Yeah, right! A fantasy book where Conan and Howard the Duck will eventually team up!" I never expected a total explosion of all the variations on all the possible outcomes of whatever went on before in Marvel Land.

Crom! You folks keep this up, and poor Rogers will not be the only "fringie." I'll join him. (It's obvious you guys— and gals— are already there.)

Captain America will never be the same.

Dave Middleton
58 Primrose St.
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

When was he, Dave, even in the days *before* Roy introduced the concept of WHAT IF to the Marvel Universe? After all, Cap had already been thru a second "origin" in AVENGERS #4 which rewrote old comic-book history so that he disappeared in 1945, while his "real-life" comic-mag of the 40's lasted till 1949 and was revived briefly in the early 50's. Between that, several fake resurrections of Bucky, several on-again-off-again stints with the Avengers, a short stint with Rick Jones as his boy-partner, his comradeship with the Falcon, his spell as a policeman, etc., etc., etc., it seems to us that about the only thing that's been constant about Cap over the past decade and a half has been— *change*! So what else is new?

By the way, despite the "two Captain Americas" of five years back, the Bucky/Captain America of WHAT IF #5, and the passing of the shield first to the Spirit of '76, then to the Patriot in #4, Roy— whose idea all the above were, so he should know— considers that there is one and only *one real* Captain America, whom all the others were merely trying to emulate as best they could. His name— Steve Rogers!

Dear Marvel Madmen,

I thought that the idea of WHAT IF was to show how much effect one major change in the Marvel Universe would cause. Issue #5 was supposed to show how changed the events would be if Captain America and Bucky had both survived World War Two. Well, I cannot see how the survival of these two patriotic heroes would cause Nick Fury to be killed in the Korean War in that world, when he didn't die in ours. In other words, Nick's death was a second major change, and just as important to the story as the first change. The title of issue #5 should have been "What If Captain America and Bucky Had Both Survived World War Two *and* Nick Fury Had Died during the Korean War?" Do I get a no-prize for my observations?

Joe Jordan
412 Owl Hill Rd
Lititz, PA 17543

You get it, Joe— though less because we totally agree with your views then because we appreciate the thought process behind them! You've got a definite point, we'll grant that, but the possibility of an unwieldy title such as the one you jokingly suggest was only *one* reason why Roy and Don (who co-plotted ish #5) didn't add Nick Fury to the cover logo. Another is an unstated fact: namely that, when one change is made in the past, it can lead to a kind of domino effect in which other events are also changed— including many which seem at first glance wholly unrelated to the first change. SF great Ray Bradbury wrote the classic statement of this view in his short story, "The Sound of Thunder," some years back— a tale in which a big-game hunter goes after dinosaur via time machine and accidentally steps off the prescribed time-path, killing a butterfly in the process. When he returns to his own era, a different man— an evil man, instead of a benevolent one— has been elected President. He didn't explain, neither did we. But the principle's the same. There are a billion-and-one ways that killing the butterfly could, over the years, have resulted in that upset election. Fact is, we'll give a nostalgic no-prize to the WHAT IF reader who creates the best and most plausible chain-of-events leading from Cap's and Bucky's survival in 1945 to Nick's tragic death in the early 50's. We'll print the best letter or letters a few short issues from now, okay? See? WHAT IF is a game *everybody* can play!

I AM THE WATCHER! I OBSERVE... I RECORD... I EDIT! WHAT I SEE IS WHAT YOU GET! ACTUALLY, I'M ROY THOMAS!... THE REAL WATCHER TOOK A FEW DAYS OFF, LEAVING ME TO NARRATE THIS FLIPPED-OUT FABLE! (I GUESS HE DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE BLAME--!)

...ANYWAY, IT ANSWERS THE BURNING QUESTION-

WHAT IF THE SPIDER HAD BEEN BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE HUMAN?

UNFAIR TO DUCKS!

THE WILDEST, WACKIEST, WEIRDEST "WHAT IF" YET!

CONCEIVED, WRITTEN & DRAWN BY SCOTT SHAW!

CAROL LAY, LETTERS
CARL GAFFORD, COLORS

SPECIAL THANKS TO DAVE STEVENS & CAROL LAY, "THE MAIN PATROL"

EDITED BY ROY THOMAS

Silly Lemur® PRESENTS

the 'MAZING MAN-SPIDER

12¢ #1

HEY, KIDS! BUY THIS COMIC!--

--SOMEDAY IT'LL BE WORTH A SMALL FORTUNE!

"UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN IN A COMA FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS, YOU PROBABLY KNOW HOW PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER...

WAH!

"...AND GAINED ITS PROPORTIONAL STRENGTH AND POWERS TO BECOME... SPIDER-MAN!"

BUT WHAT IF THINGS HAD BEEN REVERSED? ...WHAT IF THE SPIDER HAD GOTTEN THE SUPER-POWERS?... WHAT IF MARVEL COMICS PUBLISHED HIS EXPLOITS INSTEAD?

...WHAT IF I--"RASCALLY ROY"-- ENDED THIS NONSENSE RIGHT NOW?

"BUT FEAR NOT, TRUE BELIEVER! FOR, IN THIS ALTERNATE REALITY, WE FIND OUR HERO-TO-BE, WEBSTER WEAVER, TEEN-AGE SPIDER!

♪

WEBSTER LIVED WITH HIS DOTING AUNT MAYFLY AND UNCLE BUG...

...AND WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED THESE, WEBSY, YOU CAN START ON LUNCH!

THAT'S OUR BOY!

AW, GEE!

...AND EVEN THE FACULTY AT ABOUTKNEE HIGH WERE FOND OF THE ACADEMIC ARACHNID!

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, WEAVER, AND YOU'LL WIN THAT SCHOLARSHIP-- HANDS DOWN!

YES-SIR!

UNFORTUNATELY, WEBSTER WEAVER WAS NOT PARTICULARLY POPULAR WITH HIS FELLOW STUDENTS...

Y'KNOW, LIZ... THAT WIMPY WEAVER REALLY GETS MY GOAT!

LISTEN, TRASH--WHY DON'T YOU BUTT OUT OF POOR WEBSY'S LIFE?

"PHOTO FREE-LANCING AT THE DAILY BEAGLE WASN'T MUCH BETTER...

...A RAISE?! YOU DARE ASK J. JONAH JACKASS FOR A RAISE?!! ...THROW HIM OUT, MISS GRUNT!

SORRY, WEBSTER!

THE LONELY YOUNG SPIDER SOUGHT REFUGE FROM THE WORLD BY IMMERSING HIMSELF IN HIS STUDIES...

SCIENCE EXHIBIT

SNIF

HEY, --WHAT'S THIS?

...A LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION ON NEW METHODS OF CONTROLLING RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIALS! IT MEANT A LONG JOURNEY TO THE BIG CITY...

HUGEVILLE 3 MILES

...AND A PERILOUS TREK AMONG THE 'HUMAN BEANS' ...BUT TO WEBSTER WEAVER, IT WAS WELL WORTH THE TROUBLE!

'SCUSE ME!

'SCUSE ME!

'SCUSE ME!

UNNOTICED, WEBSTER WAS WHOLLY ENGROSSED IN THE SCIENTIFIC DISPLAY.

...AND NOW WE'LL SHOW THAT WE'VE NOT ONLY TAMED THE FORCE OF THE ATOM--

AS THE EXPERIMENT BEGINS, NOT EVEN THE RESEARCHERS THEMSELVES COULD PREDICT ITS STRANGE RESULTS!!

--BUT WE'VE HOUSE-BROKEN IT AS WELL!

UP 'N' ATOM!

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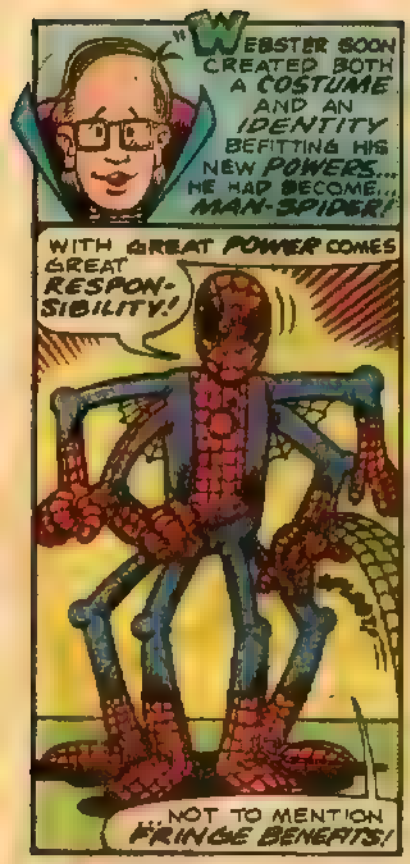
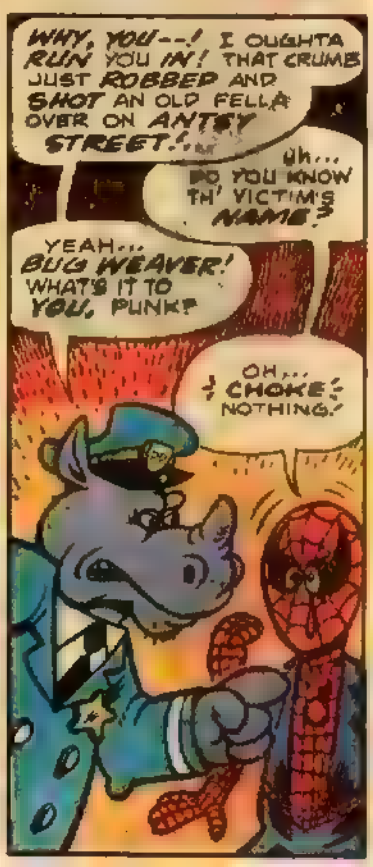

"WEBSTER SOON CREATED BOTH A COSTUME AND AN IDENTITY BEFITTING HIS NEW POWERS... HE HAD BECOME... MAN-SPIDER!
WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!
...NOT TO MENTION FRINGE BENEFITS!

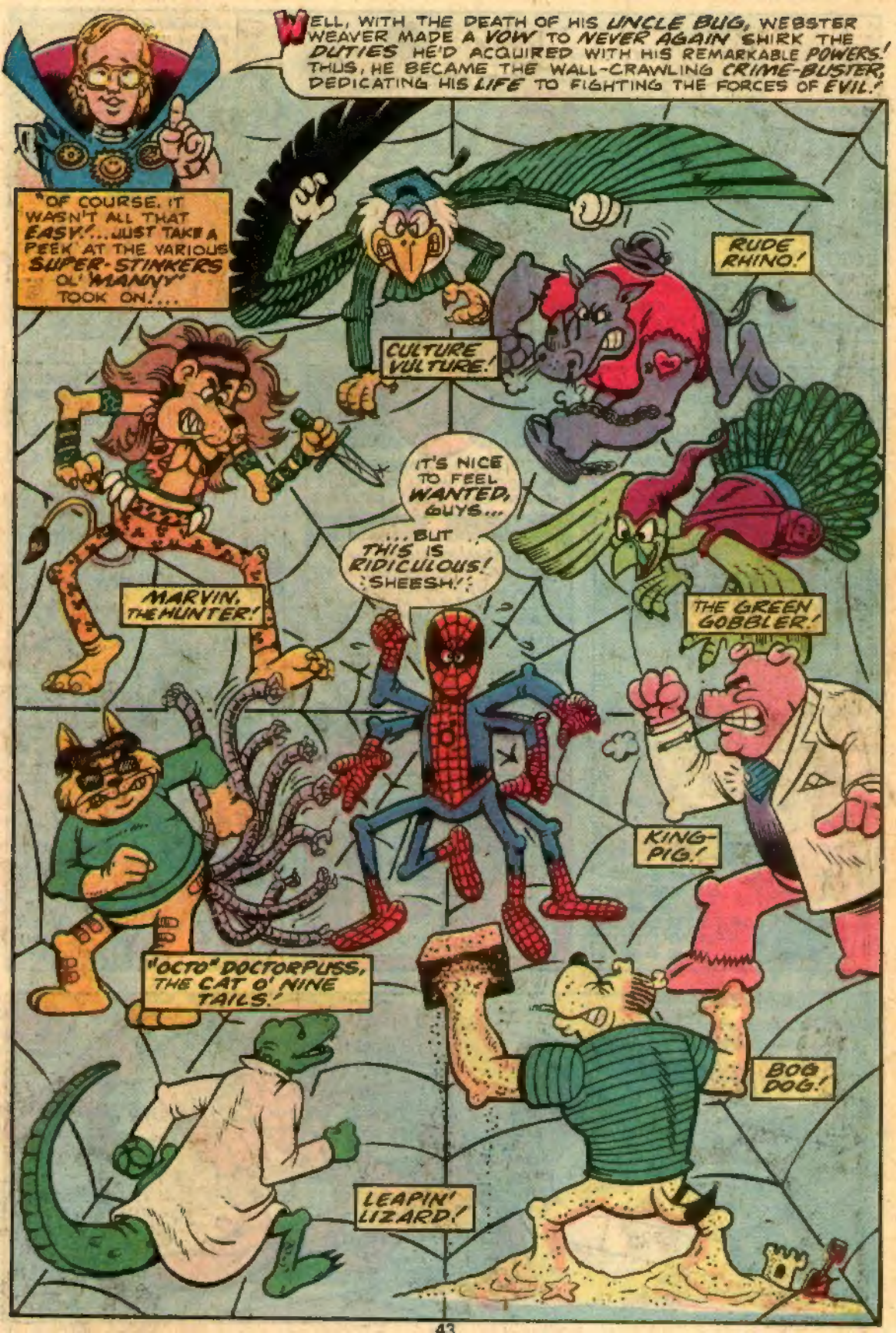
"BEFORE LONG, THE PLUCKY SPIDER WAS TESTING HIS NEW-FOUND ABILITIES...
WHEEE!
...LET TRASH CHOMPSON LAUGH AT ME NOW!
"...AND WAS ELATED DISCOVER THAT ALL OF HIS SPIDER-ABILITIES HAD BEEN AMPLIFIED...!

"THE MEDIA WASTED NO TIME; MAN-SPIDER WAS SOON SEEN ON NETWORK TELEVISION!
GASP!
I'LL BET THE BIONIC BULL-FROG CAN'T DO THIS!
WEBB

"THEN, ONE DAY AS 'MANNY' WAS LEAVING THE STUDIO...
GEE... WHAT'S THAT ROTTEN ODOR?!... SMELLS LIKE BUG SPRAY!!!
HEY!! STOP THAT GUY! HE'S A CROOK! GRAB 'IM!!
HUH?!
PUFF! PUFF!

CHEE! WHAT'S WITH YOU, BUDDY? WHY D'ONT YOU GRAB THAT GUY? WITH YOUR SUPER-POWERS IT WOULDA BEEN A CINCH!
SORRY, OFFICER... BUT THAT'S YOUR JOB! BESIDES--
--I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED!


WHY, YOU--! I OUGHTA RUN YOU IN! THAT CRUMB JUST ROBBED AND SHOT AN OLD FELLA OVER ON ANTSY STREET!...
UH... DO YOU KNOW TH' VICTIM'S NAME?
YEAH... BUG WEAVER! WHAT'S IT TO YOU, PUNK?
OH... CHOKE! NOTHING!


WELL, WITH THE DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BUG, WEBSTER WEAVER MADE A VOW TO NEVER AGAIN SHIRK THE DUTIES HE'D ACQUIRED WITH HIS REMARKABLE POWERS! THUS, HE BECAME THE WALL-CRAWLING CRIME-BUSTER, DEDICATING HIS LIFE TO FIGHTING THE FORCES OF EVIL!
"OF COURSE, IT WASN'T ALL THAT EASY!... JUST TAKE A PEEK AT THE VARIOUS SUPER-STINKERS OL' "MANNY" TOOK ON....
RUDE RHINO!
CULTURE VULTURE!
IT'S NICE TO FEEL WANTED, GUYS...
...BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS! SHEESH!
MARVIN, THE HUNTER!
THE GREEN GOBBLER!
KING-PIG!
"OCTO" DOCTORPUSS, THE CAT O' NINE TAILS!
BOG DOG!
LEAPIN' LIZARD!

...NOT TO MENTION OTHER FORMIDIBLE FOES, SUCH AS...

THE STINGER!

WEEVIL McEVIL!

PORKIUS, THE LIVING HAM-PIRE!

THE SCHLOKKER!

ELECTRO-EEL!

THE SPUD OF 1,000 FACES, MR. POTATO HAID!

THE INCRED-IBLE HOG!

FISH-TERID!

AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR WEB-CROSSED SUPER-HERO USUALLY HAS ALL FOUR OF HIS HANDS FULL! BUT EVEN AT HIS MOST TRIUMPHANT, WEAVER IS GUILT-HAUNTED BY THE MEMORY OF HIS DEAR OLD UNCLE BUG...

--WHO DIED UNAVENGED DUE TO MAN-SPIDER'S CALLOUS APATHY! BUT ONE DAY...

...THIS IS BARBARA WALRUS WITH THE 6:00 NEWS! OUR FIRST STORY...

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AROUND THE GLOBE HAVE RECEIVED ANONYMOUS BLACKMAIL WARNINGS CLAIMING THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE DESTROYED UNLESS $1,000,000,000 IN RANSOM IS PAID IN 24 HOURS. SO FAR, NOBODY'S TAKING THIS THREAT SERIOUSLY...

WELL, SOME FOLKS ARE!...

J.J.!! THIS JUST CAME IN ON THE WIRE! ALL THOSE THREATS WERE POSTMARKED IN THIS CITY! THE MAYOR'S GOING TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT TODAY!

WEAVER! --GET ON IT!

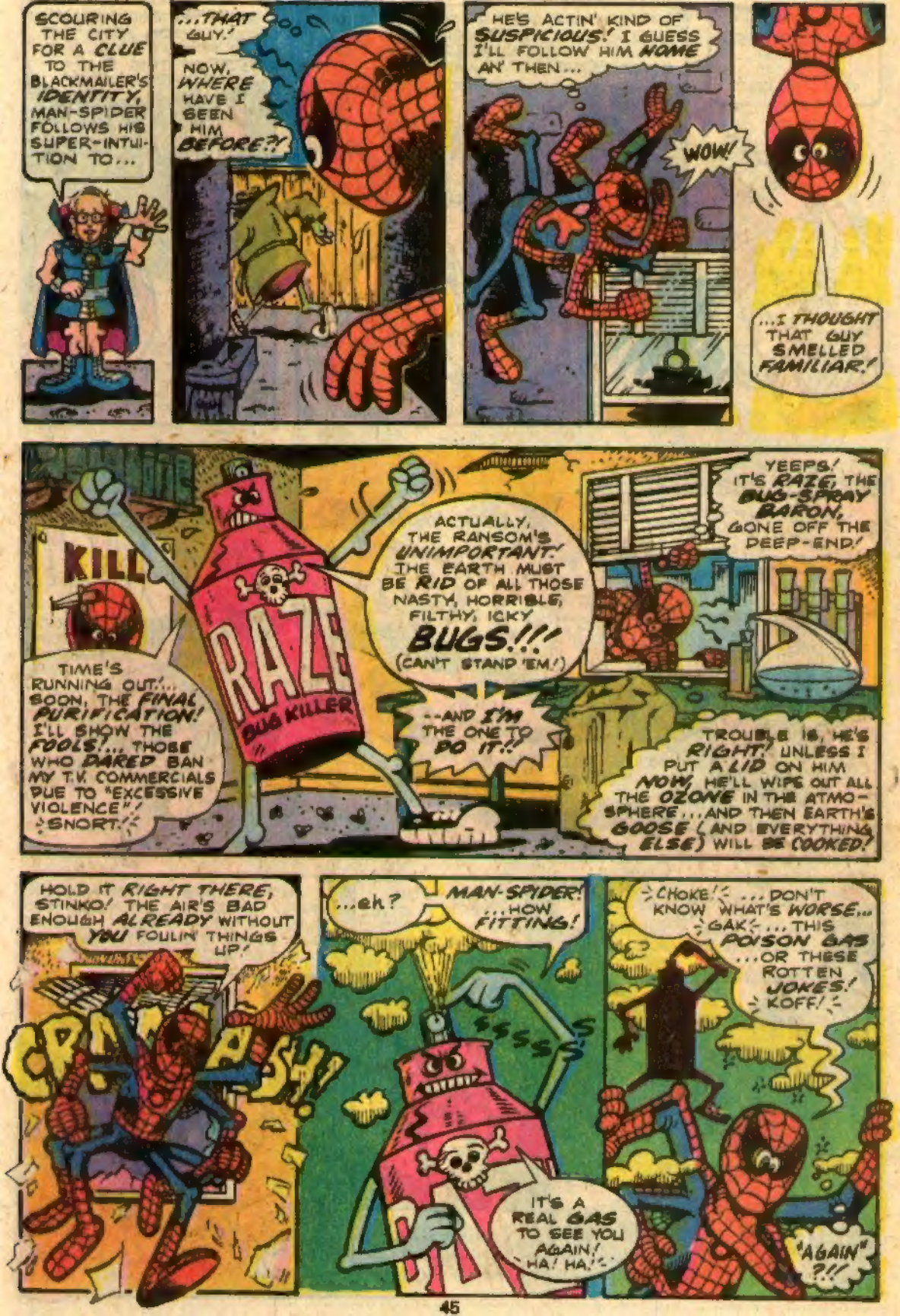
MMM... I THINK I'LL HANDLE THIS--

...--AS THE AMAZING... MAN-SPIDER!

LOOK! IT'S HIM!

GO GET 'IM, MANNY!

OH, I HOPE I DON'T GET A NOSE-BLEED WAY UP HERE!


SCOURING THE CITY FOR A CLUE TO THE BLACKMAILER'S IDENTITY, MAN-SPIDER FOLLOWS HIS SUPER-INTUITION TO...
...THAT GUY.
NOW, WHERE HAVE I SEEN HIM BEFORE?!
HE'S ACTIN' KIND OF SUSPICIOUS! I GUESS I'LL FOLLOW HIM HOME AN' THEN...
WOW!
...I THOUGHT THAT GUY SMELLED FAMILIAR!
KILL
RAZE
BUG KILLER
ACTUALLY, THE RANSOM'S UNIMPORTANT! THE EARTH MUST BE RID OF ALL THOSE NASTY, HORRIBLE, FILTHY, ICKY BUGS!!! (CAN'T STAND 'EM!)
YEEPS! IT'S RAZE, THE BUG-SPRAY BARON, GONE OFF THE DEEP-END!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT!... SOON, THE FINAL PURIFICATION! I'LL SHOW THE FOOLS!... THOSE WHO DARED BAN MY T.V. COMMERCIALS DUE TO "EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE"! SNORT!
--AND I'M THE ONE TO DO IT!!
TROUBLE IS, HE'S RIGHT! UNLESS I PUT A LID ON HIM NOW, HE'LL WIPE OUT ALL THE OZONE IN THE ATMOSPHERE...AND THEN EARTH'S GOOSE (AND EVERYTHING ELSE) WILL BE COOKED!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, STINKO! THE AIR'S BAD ENOUGH ALREADY WITHOUT YOU FOULIN' THINGS UP!
CRASH!
...eh?
MAN-SPIDER! ...HOW FITTING!
SSSSS
IT'S A REAL GAS TO SEE YOU AGAIN! HA! HA!
CHOKE! ...DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE... GAK! ...THIS POISON GAS ...OR THESE ROTTEN JOKES! KOFF!
"AGAIN" ?!!

I SEE THAT YOU SURVIVED MY GAS ATTACK, YOU PEST!

IT'S JUST AS WELL... I FORGOT TO THANK YOU!...

...FOR IT WAS YOU WHO ALLOWED ME TO MAKE MY GETAWAY FROM THE CRIME THAT FINANCED THE INITIATION OF MY BRILLIANT PLAN!

KILL

I WAS RIGHT! IT WAS YOU!

YOU SCUM! YOU KILLED MY UNCLE BUG!

SPARE ME THE DRAMATICS! YOU'LL SOON JOIN THE OLD FOOL, AS WILL THE REST OF THIS BUG-RIDDEN WORLD!

THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU-- WITHOUT A TRACE OF EVIDENCE!

BUT--

...WEBSTER'S SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW ALERTS HIM TO THE DANGER OF A PRE-MATURE GAS EXPLOSION! TEARING FREE FROM HIS BONDS, HE CRIES--

--WAIT!!! ...DON'T!!! ?UGHH!?

ARGGHH!!

RIP!

RIP!

RIP!

BABAROOM!!

YOU'LL KILL US BOTH!

TOO LATE.

GEE! HE SHOULD'VE HAD A SMOKE ALARM!

LATER...

I HOPE YOU WERE WATCHING TONIGHT, UNCLE BUG... YOU FEEL ANY BETTER NOW?...

...I KNOW I DO!--

--BUT NOT FOR LONG! I'VE STILL GOTTA FACE THE MOST HORRIBLE MENACE OF THEM ALL--!!

...AUNT MAYFLY'S CHICKEN-POX SOUP! YEESH!

...AND SO ENDS OUR MAN-SPIDER MINI-SAGA! OF COURSE, IT WAS ONLY A "WHAT-IF" TALE... UNLIKE OUR OTHER STORIES, THIS NEVER COULD'VE REALLY HAPPENED! AFTER ALL, NO ONE TAKES FUNNY ANIMALS SERIOUSLY, RIGHT!?

WHAT NEXT?